

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) released the following statement on today's vote to override the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP):

"Today, Republican leadership joined President Bush in playing partisan politics while 10 million American children wait in limbo. In the President's own home state of Texas, we are home to a staggering 1.4 million children who lack access to even the most basic health insurance without the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP).

"This bipartisan S-CHIP reauthorization would update the state-run health insurance program designed to be an option of last resort for millions of children of working families across the nation. The bill would exclude those who are not U.S. citizens, phase-out adults, and is completely paid for and budget-neutral. The misinformation spread by this Administration is simply a vicious attempt to score political points on the backs of American children.

"The President and his partisan allies in Congress would do well to remember that while they play politics in Washington, D.C., roughly 440,000 uninsured yet CHIP-eligible boys and girls in Texas will miss the next round of critical health checkups, and millions of Texas parents will pray their uninsured sons and daughters remain healthy another day.

"The health and wellbeing of our children should be one of the greatest national priorities in this country. I will continue to support the update of S-CHIP and the coverage of 10 million children nationwide."

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